

Tentative record check list, Southern Recording Expedition sponsored by Joint Committee on Folk Arts WPA and the Library of Congress, Herbert Halpert in charge, May 12 - June 30, 1939 [excerpt]

2735–3153 4090 188 C

Tentative record check list

SOUTHERN RECORDING EXPEDITION

Sponsored by Joint Committee on Folk Arts WPA And The Library of Congress

Herbert Halpert in Charge

March 12 – June 30, 1939

126

The following ten records were made using electricity in the Federal Music Project's office, Jacksonville, Florida, June 18, 1939. Zora Neale Hurston who sings a number of songs is the well known Negro author and is herself a collector.

402

Zora Neale Hurston, aged 35.

A

1) a) Gonna See My Long Haired Babe (railroad spiking song)

b) explanation

Library of Congress

B

- 1) a) description
 - b) Lining holler (lining track chant)
 - c) description
 - d) repet.
- 2) Dat Old Black Gal (railroad spiking song)

403

Zora Neale Hurston

A

- 1) Shove It Over (lining track)
- 2) description of lining track

B

- 1) Mule on the Mount (lining track and other jobs)

404

Beatrice Long (white) aged 35

A Stories read from her own MS.

- 1) a) "a story story"

Library of Congress

b) no title (a coon story)

c) no title (tall tale)

Zora Neale Hurston

B

1) a) description of game called "Georgia Skin" — with rhymes.

b) Let the Deal Go Down (gambling song)

405

Zora Neale Hurston

A

1) Uncle Bud (bawdy song)

2) Oh the Búford Boat Done Come (Dance song from the Geechee country in Georgia)

B

1) Ever Been Down (Blues)

2) a) Halimuhfack ("jook" song)

b) Miss Hurston describing how she collects and learns songs (including those she has published).

127

6/18/39

Library of Congress

Jacksonville, Fla.

406

Zora Neale Hurston

A

1) Tampa ("jook" song)

2) Po' Gal or Po' Boy

B

1) Mama don' want no peas, no rice (song from Nassau, Bahama Islands)

2) Crow Dance (mamma come see dat crow) (song from Bahama Islands)

407

Evelyn Werner (white) aged 32

A

1) a) story

b) explanation of reason for recording story given by Dr. Corse.

2) Mrs. Rella Southworth, director of P. & S. Division, W. P. A. talking; introduced by Dr. Carita Dogget Corse, state director, Federal Writers Projects, W. P. A.

* * * * *

Following also recorded in project office by Negro group of whom the first four were blind.

Library of Congress

Rev. H. W. Stuckey, aged 43, blind Negro preacher

B

- 1) Old Farm Song (holler used about noontime) (way down yonder)
- 2) Holler (used around quittin' time) (Have you ever seen a monkey?)

408

Rev. H. W. Stuckey

A

- 1) no title (dance calling song) (var. Wish I Was A Single Man)
- 2) Selling Fish — (imitation of street vendor's cry from Sumter, S. C.)

Irene Jackson, aged 39

B

- 1) Where have you been, charming Billy? (Billy Boy)
- 2) no title ("play church" song) (I lost my Jersey cow) (minstrel (?))
- 3) Preaching (children's version of preaching using "House that Jack built")

128

409

Irene Jackson

Ellabell Singleton, aged 33

Library of Congress

A

- 1) children's sermon — with song
- 2) a) no title (ring play) (monkey motions)
b) repet. with patting
- 3) Imitation of watermelon vendor's street cry (with partial repet.)

Maggie Fulton, aged 43

B

- 1) Little girl (game — in part)
- 2) “ “ “ “ (repetition)
- 3) Hawk and chickens (game)
- 4) Captain's Mule (mule skinning song sung in hard roads camp)

Harold B. Hazelhurst, aged 29

(cont'd on 410 A-1)

410

Harold B. Hazelhurst

A

- 1) Captain's Mule (cont'd from 409 B-4)

Library of Congress

2) a) discussion

b) John Henry (in part)

B

1) call used for rousing men in road camps (with repet.)

2) Same call with additions when Negro used it.

3) no title (Stewball plus gambling verses (last verse not recorded (cf. Z. Hurston's version "Mule on the Mount")

411

Rev. H. W. Stuckey

A

1) a) Imitating a Geechee preacher giving a sermon

b) song used at "opening of church door" (with repet.)

Zora Neale Hurston

Zora Hurston singing; questioned by Dr. C. D. Corse

B

1) Wake Up, Jacob (camp rousing holler)

2) Oh Mr. Brown (song from Nassau, in Bahamas)

Library of Congress

3) Tilly Lend Me Your Pigeon (Miss Hurston was tired (in part) and accidentally tacked songs together)

4) Evalina (group song usually sung with drums)

* * * * *

129

Following recorded June 21, 1939 using electricity at the Cuban Club (white) Tampa, Florida by members of a visiting Cuban vaudeville group. They are supposed to be folk songs that the group uses as part of their act. It should be noted that the pianist read from a ms., harmonized copy of each song.

412

Estela Echezabal

A

1) Introduction — 1st Spanish, then English

2) a) “ of song

b) discussion

c) Punto Guajiro

(sung with piano and drum accom.)

d) translation

Carlos Pous

Library of Congress

B

1) Guabina (accom. by piano, drum and traps, and gourds)

2) explanation

413

Adela Martinez

A

1) Merce (song still played in dance halls) (accom. by piano, drums, and gourds)

2) explanation

3) translation

Gilberto Delfino and Ramon Bermudez

B

1) a) Nina (with piano accom.)

2) translation — including some remark by Ramon Bermudez which he badly wanted eliminated

3) Five Cuban drum (rhythms)

a) Son (slow rumba)

b) Rumba

c) Bembe (Afro-Cuban)

Library of Congress

d) Conga

e) Mani (old rhythm)

* * * * *